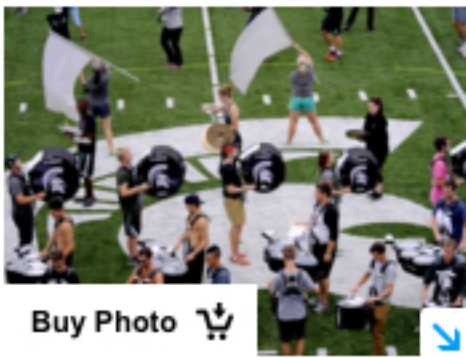


Spartan Marching Band prepares for largest show ever

 **RJ Wolcott**, Lansing State Journal 9:49 a.m. EST November 12, 2015



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EAST LANSING - One of the creative minds behind the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening and closing ceremonies is bringing college football and an ancient Chinese military strategist together for a halftime show with the Michigan State University Marching Band.

The Art of the March: Cues from Sun Tzu's "The Art of War," designed by New York and Beijing artist Jennifer Wen Ma, will take place during halftime of the MSU vs. Maryland football game on Nov. 14. The performance will be the largest and most complex in the marching band's history, said Kristen Parker, an MSU spokesperson.

Planners incorporated 300 band members among more than 600 performers as well as 1,500 audience members who will form paintings using card stunts during the performance. The show will include five musical sections and visual elements ranging from smoke to performers dressed as a dragon.

The halftime performance is the outgrowth of a friendship between Ma and Min Jung Kim, who served as deputy director for external relations at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum until August. It was Kim who invited Ma to bring the culture and art of China onto MSU's largest stage, Parker said.

Ma headed the creative team behind the Beijing Olympic ceremonies in 2008.

MSU is currently in the midst of an 18-month focus on Chinese culture, [The China Experience: An MSU Exploration of Arts and Culture](#). The university's Cultural Engagement Council is sponsoring the performance as a celebration of this initiative, the release stated. This year also marks the 10-year anniversary of [MSU's China Initiative](#), which set out to expand MSU's outreach in that country.

Ma cited a need to bring art outside of traditional venues as a motivation to stage the performance during an MSU football game.

"Art isn't just in the walls of a museum or in a theater," she said, in a statement released by the university. "It's really important we go outside those walls and bring a shift in perspective, a new experience, to millions of people."

Ma is scheduled to give a talk at 7 p.m. at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum on Nov. 11. She'll also discuss the halftime show to crowds at 7 p.m. Nov. 12 at the MSU Music Building.

The kickoff time for the Nov. 14 game against Maryland has yet to be determined.